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From: "Robert Law"
Sent: Wed 12/19/2012 2:53:54 PM
Subject: HV CWCM Sampling - 12/18/2012 & NBSA Postponement

Ladies:

I am going to assume that our discussions yesterday and this report which describes the conditions in Newark Bay will suffice and an actual Force Majeure notice is not required.

AECOM, Gravity and OSI conducted a reconnaissance survey of the impacts of the Staten Island oil spill during transit from the Liberty Landing Yacht Club in Jersey City to the Tidal River 2 location. Oil was noted to be heavy throughout the Kill van Kull, in the area around Newark Bay South, and in the Lower Passaic River between river miles 2 and 3. Gravity technicians indicated that free product oil could cause false readings on the PUF samples, or foul the equipment altogether. AECOM discussed this with de maximis, who relayed and discussed with EPA. Kristen Durocher spoke with AmyMarie Accardi-Dey about the potential impacts.

The LPRSA and NBSA EPA RPMs and the CPG agreed to postpone sampling in Newark Bay until January.

AECOM will work with OSI and Gravity to develop a new schedule for completing the Newark Bay portion of the first High Volume event. This information will be relayed to the project team before the holidays.

An update of activities conducted on Tuesday December 18, 2012 to support the first high volume chemical water column monitoring sampling event follows:

Three sampling boats were operating on Tuesday.

The Willing II was moored at the Robbins Reef Yacht Club for an equipment blank.

The West Cove sampled at Tidal River 2 (RM 4.2). The vessel was underway at approximately 09:00 from Liberty Landing Yacht Club and returned at 21:55.

The Echo Echo served as a support vessel to the West Cove.

Sample Volumes

The projected sample volume at Tidal River 2 was based on minimum SSC concentrations from the Small Volume Events Routine #1 through 4 and the Low Flow Event.

At Tidal River 2, the minimum historic SSC was 15.7 mg/L. The projected target sample volume of 200L was calculated using these data.

During sampling, solids were found to be at a slightly higher concentration than anticipated, likely due to approximately 1" of overnight rain which caused an increase in flow from 595 cfs to almost 1300 cfs within approximately 4 hours. However, the team determined they could achieve the target volume by reducing the flow rates to approximately 1 L/min (maximum desired flow rate is 1.5 L/min). Filters were changed approximately every 15L. The final sample volume of 200L was achieved after just over 5 hours of pumping.

The equipment blank was collected using 100L of deionized water, per the QAPP.

Samples

Samples were collected for Particle Size Distribution at Tidal River 2 from 2 depths at RM 4.2.

Samples were collected for Particle Size Distribution from the three freshwater tributaries (Second River, Third River and Saddle River).

One nonconformance was noted during sampling. The SOP (SW-19) states that filter changes will occur when pressure reads 5 psi due to the presence of algal material noted during the HV demonstration. Since adding the glass wool pre-filter, which catches the algal matter, the Gravity technicians discussed with AECOM that the trigger for the filter change could be up to 15 psi. Samples were collected following the 15 psi rule.

QC Samples

A CPG field duplicate was collected at Tidal River 2 on Tuesday.

EPA Oversight

Oversight staff from Louis Berger (AmyMarie Accardi-Dey and Xuilan Wang) were on site at the Robbins Reef Yacht Club to observe the equipment blank being collected. John Rolfe from dmi was also present during the blank collection.

Other Activities

A Health and Safety briefing was held on each vessel prior to leaving the dock. No Health and Safety incidents were noted today.

Due to the unusually high number of filters used during Monday's sampling, Analytical Perspectives sent additional filters via Priority FedEx, but they were not received until 2:30 pm due to FedEx error. While this delayed sampling, the samples planned for Tuesday were completed.

Shipping

One cooler containing all POC/DOC and SSC samples collected on Monday for CWCM was shipped via UPS.

Samples collected on Monday and from the Tributaries on Tuesday for Particle Size Distribution were shipped via UPS.

The 10L post-PUF filtrate samples and the separated solids 16 oz containers collected on Monday were shipped via UPS.

All PUF and glass wool cartridges from Monday and all samples collected on Tuesday (with the exception of the tributary Particle Size samples) are being held at the facility in the locked refrigerated walk-in for shipping Wednesday. This includes HV samples as well as Particle Size Distribution samples.

Planned Activities

Members of the facility team will remain on site Wednesday for part of the day to ship remaining samples and receive any packages shipped by the laboratory. All other AECOM personnel will travel home. OSI will demobilize the vessels. Gravity will demobilize and clean equipment, which will be secured and stored at the CPG facility for use in January.

Please contact Kristen or me if you have any questions

R/
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